

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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SUBJ: CODEL WOLFF NARCOTICS DISCUSSIONS

1. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATIONS ON NARCOTICS ISSUES DURING
AUGUST 13-15 VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF TOOK PLACE AUGUST 13
WHEN CONGRESSMEN WOLFF, BURKE, NEAL, GILMAN AND STAFF MEMBERS
MET WITH INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS, PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE
POLICE (PIP) DIRECTOR RIVERA SANTANDER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL
DIAZ POMAR, THE LATTER ACCOMPANIED BY NATIONAL COCA
ENTERPRISE ADMINISTRATOR COSTA.

2. AT SESSION WITH INTERIOR MINISTER (HEAVILY COVERED BY
PRESS REPRESENTATIVES) CODEL STRESSED THAT BOTH THE US AND
PERU AND "VICTIM COUNTRIES" OF ILLICIT COCAINE
THE TRAFFIC WITH THE TRAFFIKERS EXPLOITING BOTH THE POOR
PERUVIAN FARMER, WHO RECEIVES RELATIVELY LITTLE FOR HIS COCA
PRODUCTION, AND THE DRUG USER IN THE US. CISNEROS THANKED US
FOR ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED, AGREED TO SERIOUSNESS OF
PROBLEM AND ANNOUNCED THAT LONG DELAYED NEW DRUG LAW WOULD
PROBABLY BE APPROVED AND ANNOUNCED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. HE
SAID LAW WOULD CENTRALIZE EFFORTS OF ALL ELEMENTS OF GOP
CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFIC AND IS AIMED AT ELIMINATION OF
UNAUTHORIZED PRODUCTION OF COCA, INTERDICTION OF TRAFFIC,
AND CURBING OF SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WHO, HE ALLEGED, BENEFIT
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FROM THE ILLICIT TRADE. HE ADDED THAT PROBLEM OF COCA USE
IN PERU IS DEEPLY ROOTED AND WILL TAKE TIME TO RESOLVE.
CODEL CALLED NEW LAW VERY CONSTRUCTIVE, BUT NOTED SUCCESS
IN REDUCING HEROIN FLOW FROM TURKEY AND MEXICO HAS
INCREASED DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR COCAINE AND STRESSED THAT,
PERUVIAN DIFFICULTIES NOTWITHSTANDING, THIS HAS BECOME A MAJOR
PROBLEM FOR US WHICH MUST BE FACED BY GOP. CISNEROS

PROMISED FULL GOP COOPERATION IN CURBING THIS TRAFFIC BUT CAUTIONED THAT CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS LIMIT ITS EFFORTS; HE CITED ALSO NEED FOR INCREASED INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. CODEL NOTED RECENT US AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA TO FORM JOINT COMMISSION ON NARCOTICS AND SUGGESTED SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH PERU OR, POSSIBLY, A TRIPARTITE US-COLOMBIAN-PERUVIAN AGREEMENT; CISNEROS OPINED THAT NEW DRUG LAW WILL IMPROVE COLLABORATION WITH BOTH US AND COLOMBIA.

3. AT PIP HEADQUARTERS, DIRECTOR RIVERA SANTANDER GAVE LENGTHY FORMAL PRESENTATION (AGAIN WELL COVERED BY PRESS) ON NARCOTICS SITUATION IN PERU, THE NEW DRUG LAW, SOME RECENT INTERDICTION OPERATIONS AND GOP/INTERPOL/DEA COOPERATION (INCLUDING PROPOSED AID-FUNDED REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT). HE CONCLUDED BY RECOMMENDING INCREASED JOINT OPERATIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND UPGRADING SKILLS OF PIP OFFICERS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING. CODEL AGAIN REFERRED TO JOINT US-COLOMBIAN COMMISSION AND DESIRABILITY OF SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH PERU AND DISCUSSED WITH RIVERA SANTANDER COORDINATION OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WITHIN GOP AND EFFECTIVENESS OF US ASSISTANCE.

4. CODEL MET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL DIAZ POMAR AND COCA ENTERPRISE DIRECTOR COSTA IN INFORMAL SESSION AT EMBASSY. DIAZ POMAR ASSURED CODEL OF SERIOUSNESS OF GOP EFFORTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CURB ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC AND CLAIMED SMALL FARMERS WISH TO END ILLICIT COCA GROWING IF ADEQUATE INCOME SUBSTITUTION CAN BE FOUND. COSTA DISCUSSED DIFFICULTY OF CONTROLLING ILLEGAL PRODUCTION DUE TO INADEQUATE RESOURCES AND CITED FAILURE OF EARLIER CROP SUBSTITUTION EXPERIMENTS AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE NEED FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. DIAZ POMAR THEN SAID THAT DURING HIS VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE (S/NM) IN THE DEPARTMENT IN AUGUST 1976, THAT US HAD AGREED TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COCA ENTERPRISE FOR A STUDY OF THE ILLICIT COCA PRODUCTION PROBLEM IN PERU. ON BASIS OF STUDY, VANCE ALLEGEDLY SAID SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE US AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FOR REDITS TO FARMERS (HE MENTIONED SUM OF DOLS 50 MILLION). CODEL RESPONDED THAT THEY WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS OFFER AND ASKED EMBASSY FOR COPIES OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOP ON SUCH A PROGRAM. (WE ARE REVIEWING FILES AND WILL SUBMIT TO DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSMITTAL AS APPROPRIATE, WHAT INFO WE MAY HAVE).

5. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE MEETINGS, CODEL ALSO FLEW TO TINGO MARIA IN HEART OF COCA CPRODUCING COUNTRY AUGUST

14 IN COMPANY OF PIP DIRECTOR RIVERA SANTANDER. CODEL VISITED COCA FIELDS, DRYING SHEDS AND LOCAL PIP HEADQUARTERS. TOUR OF AREA OFFERED GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION OF DIFFICULTIES GOP FACES IN CONTROLLING COCA PRODUCTION IN MOUNTAINS AND JUNGLES OF EASTERN PERU.

6. COMMENT: FROM EMBASSY POINT OF VIEW, CODEL VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL AND TIMELY. IT IS QUITE LIKELY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT NEW DRUG LAW WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED FOR MONTHS WAS PUSHED THROUGH GOP BUREAUCRACY BY PROSPECT OF THE VISIT. GOP OBVIOUSLY AIMED TO GIVE CODEL WOLFF A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IT FACES IN DEALING WITH THIS COMPLEX ISSUE AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATE ITS SINCERE INTEREST IN COMBATTING PROBLEM. CODEL GOT MESSAGE ACROSS CLEARLY OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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URGENCY OF
THE PROBLEM IN THE US WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL PERSUADE GOP TO INCREASE ATTENTION TO IT.

7. ABOVE FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CODEL WOLFF SINCE CODEL STATED NO MEMCONS REQUIRED FOR ITS USE. (CODEL TAPES SUBSTANTIVE PRESENTATIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE.)

8. FOR BOGOTA: WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS ABOUT ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION OF JOINT US-COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS COMMISSION. CODEL INDICATED AT AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THIS IDEA WOULD BE PURSUED WITH GOP THROUGH THIS EMBASSY.
SHLAUDEMAM

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